



**WINMUN VII**  
**GA: UN DESA**



# Table of Contents

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<b><u>Table of Contents</u></b>	<b>1</b>
<b><u>A Letter From The Chair</u></b>	<b>2</b>
<b><u>Disclaimer &amp; Committee Policies</u></b>	<b>3</b>
<b><u>Topic A: Child Marriage and Forced Marriage</u></b>	<b>4</b>
<b><u>Topic B: Food Insecurity in Developing Nations</u></b>	<b>13</b>
<b><u>Bibliography</u></b>	<b>20</b>



# A Letter From The Chair

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Hi delegates,

My name is Gauri Bansal, and I am so excited to be serving as your chair in this United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) committee this spring. I can't wait to meet you all and debate these intricate topics that you will find as interesting as I do! I am currently a junior at Winchester High School, and am also on the WinMUN secretariat! I truly feel that Model UN is an amazing way to step out of your comfort skills whether that means talking about a topic you do not know about or even learning to network during an unmoderated caucus. And if this is your first time at a conference, I am extra excited to take this journey with you!

I have been staffing WinMUN for 3 years, and have participated in several others. Outside of school, I also run the Mock Trial team at our school and spend my time on the student government. Other than that, I row with a varsity crew team, and paint.

During this committee, you will use your skills to solve some of the world's biggest problems as you navigate the opinions of others and adapt your solutions to fit the needs of the world. Model UN is founded on comprehension and research, urging you to leverage the efforts you've invested prior to the conference in comprehending topics, understanding country policies, and more. This approach aims to bring well-informed and inventive solutions to the discussions. While delving into complex topics and addressing intricate problems may seem daunting, I am confident in your ability to do so, and I cannot wait to see the solutions you develop!

I hope you all look forward to learning, making progress in your MUN career, collaborating, and having fun during your time in committee. I cannot wait to read your position papers and meet you all soon. If you have any questions do not hesitate to reach out!

**Gauri Bansal - Committee Chair**

*WinMUN VII UNDESA Committee*

[winchester.hmun@gmail.com](mailto:winchester.hmun@gmail.com)



# Disclaimer & Committee Policies

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## **Content Disclaimer**

This committee tackles many sensitive topics. If any delegate feels uncomfortable discussing the topics or has any concerns about the topic's discussion, please do not hesitate to let a chair know. We will do our best to accommodate you, and it will have no impact on awards.

*Please email [winchester.bmun@gmail.com](mailto:winchester.bmun@gmail.com) with any questions you may have about this.*

## **Technology Policy**

WinMUN is a conference that embraces technology in specific committees, with the General Assembly: UN DESA allowing and promoting the use of laptops or other appropriate devices for creating working papers and drafting resolutions. However, it is highly recommended that delegates also bring printed copies of their research and speeches during debate time, if applicable. The use of smartphones or similar devices for any purpose during committee sessions, including MUN-related activities, is strictly prohibited unless discussed with the chair. While delegates are allowed to bring notes to assist with speeches, heavily relying on screens for reading will be deemed unprofessional and result in slight point deductions for award contentions.

## **Committee Expectations**

All WinMUN delegates are expected to remain respectful throughout the duration of committee session. If at any point a delegate feels uncomfortable or has a concern they are strongly encouraged to send a note to the dais and to speak with the dias immediately after the committee session. The dias will not tolerate any behavior or speech that is racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or otherwise targeted or discriminatory.



# Topic A: Child Marriage and Forced Marriage

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## Overview

Child and forced marriage, referred to as CFM, is one of the most prevalent human rights violations experienced by women and children around the world. CFM disproportionately affects women and children, preventing them from making autonomous decisions about their lives, futures, and bodies. Child marriage is defined as any union (formal or informal) in which one of the parties is a “child”, defined by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as any person under the age of 18.<sup>1</sup> Forced marriage is described as any union in which one or more parties have not expressed their full and free consent to the union.<sup>2</sup> Due to these definitions, child marriages can also fall under the category of forced marriage depending on individual circumstances.



The roots of Child and Forced Marriage (CFM) are deeply to gender inequality, perpetuating a crisis disproportionately affecting women and girls worldwide. The ramifications of CFM extend beyond mere marital status, encompassing a spectrum of physical and mental health challenges. Victims often find themselves marginalized, isolated from societal engagement, forcibly withdrawn from educational pursuits, and subjected to heightened vulnerability to sexual violence or trafficking.<sup>3</sup>

Alarming statistics underscore the gendered nature of CFM, with over two-thirds of victims being female. Moreover, the majority of these victims face the grim reality of early pregnancy or recurring sexual violence, given the prevalent trend of coerced marriages with significantly older partners. The prevalence of CFM is particularly pronounced in lower-income countries, where three in every five individuals find themselves ensnared in forced unions. This stark reality underscores the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-rights-child>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/about-child-marriage/law-and-child-marriage/>

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed\\_norm/@ipec/documents/publication/wcms\\_854795.pdf](https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/@ed_norm/@ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854795.pdf)



pernicious impact of educational deprivation, amplifying the vulnerability of CFM victims to exploitation and abuse.

In light of these realities, this committee must adopt a resolute stance with concrete strategies aimed at supporting CFM victims and preventing more. Central to this endeavor is the pursuit of comprehensive solutions designed to offer substantive support to victims and mitigate the risk of CFM occurrences in the future. Through concerted efforts and collaborative action, this committee will work to foster tangible progress towards dismantling the structures perpetuating CFM and fostering an environment conducive to the empowerment and safeguarding of vulnerable individuals, particularly women and girls, globally.

## **Historical Background**

Beginning in the earliest civilizations, CFM has been ingrained into today's society by societal norms and sexist traditions. Historically, challenging these beliefs proved very challenging, but some standout early movements garnered some support for the crisis. Most of these movements were structured around religious ideals, which limited the audience. For example, in the 19th century, the Arya Samaj Reform Movement unfolded in India, centering on the restoration of Vedic authority in the lives of its people. Beyond this spiritual emphasis, the movement sought to enhance the well-being of women and children by challenging societal norms. It actively worked to destigmatize female education, providing women with essential life skills. Despite garnering significant followers, the movement encountered fierce opposition from conservative Hindu factions, leading to its eventual decline.<sup>4</sup> Simultaneously, the International Abolitionist Federation (IAF) emerged with an initial focus on eradicating slavery. Over time, the IAF shifted its mission to combating child marriage and human trafficking, employing international conferences, legal advocacy, and lobbying to raise awareness of women's rights issues. However, the IAF struggled against the entrenched colonial dynamics and diverse cultural traditions associated with child and forced marriage. The organization's European

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<sup>4</sup>[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Slavery\\_Conventions/qj7b0hglG5IC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA249&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Slavery_Conventions/qj7b0hglG5IC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA249&printsec=frontcover)



perspective often fell short of comprehending the nuanced cultural impacts of these practices, ultimately contributing to its challenges and eventual decline.<sup>5</sup>

Although these movements did see some success at their peak, they eventually lost support before achieving anything. We can look back on these movements to learn about the complexities and challenges that come with dealing with a topic that could be a strong factor in many cultures.

## Past UN Actions

The UN has been very active on this topic recently, and some of the most effective pieces of legislation include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5.3, and UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage.

The Convention was integrated into the United Nations (UN) as an international treaty in 1981 to monitor the situation of women and protect women's rights.<sup>6</sup> Pushed forth by the Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW), the Convention discusses the most important legal disparities that women experience on a day-to-day basis. Similarly, SDG 5.3 addresses the fact that one in five young women are married off before they turn 18, and one-half of women in marriages do not have the power to make their own decisions.<sup>7</sup> The SDG has a completion goal of 2030 and moves to set more countries "on track" for completion by that date. Finally, the UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme focuses on poorer families in rural areas of third-world countries, as they may not have access to helplines or higher education. The Programme empowers girls to call their own shots in their life, by providing education and other pathways to success.<sup>8</sup>



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<sup>5</sup>[https://www.google.com/books/edition/The\\_Slavery\\_Conventions/qj7b0hglG5IC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA249&printsec=frontcover](https://www.google.com/books/edition/The_Slavery_Conventions/qj7b0hglG5IC?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA249&printsec=frontcover)

<sup>6</sup><https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/convention-elimination-all-forms-discrimination-against-women>

<sup>7</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal5>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/protection/unfpa-unicef-global-programme-end-child-marriage>



## Child Marriage

Child marriage, defined as the union in which one party is under the age of 18, represents a pressing global issue that disproportionately impacts girls, heralding devastating consequences not only for the individual victims but also for the broader societal fabric. Rooted in multifaceted socio-economic and cultural dynamics, child marriage manifests through various interlinked factors, with poverty and economic insecurity emerging as primary catalysts. Families grappling with extreme poverty may resort to marrying off their daughters as a means to secure dowries, alleviate financial strains, or ascend the social hierarchy, perpetuating a cycle of economic vulnerability.<sup>9</sup>

Gender discrimination serves as a force driving the prevalence of child marriage, deeply rooted in longstanding societal structures and cultural beliefs. These discriminatory practices not only perpetuate the subjugation of women but also exacerbate the vulnerabilities faced by young girls.

Within many communities, harmful societal norms perpetuate the notion that girls are burdensome entities within the family structure, whose primary purpose is often perceived as being tied to marriage and domestic duties. These



norms often idealize early marriage as a means of preserving family honor, safeguarding chastity, or securing alliances between families. Moreover, traditional customs and religious beliefs may dictate that girls should be married off at a young age, further perpetuating the cycle of child marriage. Such practices are often deeply ingrained in the social fabric, passed down through generations, and reinforced by community expectations. Additionally, limited access to education for girls exacerbates their vulnerability to child marriage.

Educational opportunities for girls are often constrained by factors such as poverty, distance to schools, and cultural norms that prioritize boys' education over girls'. As a result, many girls are deprived of the knowledge and skills necessary to advocate for their rights or pursue alternative life

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage>





paths beyond early marriage. Furthermore, the economic dynamics within communities can also play a significant role in perpetuating child marriage. In many cases, families facing economic hardship may see marrying off their daughters as a means of reducing financial burdens or securing resources through dowries.<sup>10</sup> This economic reasoning often takes precedence over considerations of the girl's well-being or prospects.

The perpetuation of child marriage through entrenched gender discrimination not only robs girls of their childhood but also deprives them of opportunities for personal development, education, and economic empowerment. Addressing these complex factors requires comprehensive efforts aimed at challenging harmful societal norms, expanding access to education, empowering girls and women economically, and enforcing laws that protect their rights. By dismantling the structural inequalities that underpin child marriage, societies can work towards creating a more equitable and just future for all individuals, regardless of gender.<sup>11</sup>

Moreover, child marriages often lead to cases of physical and mental abuse, exacerbating the violence inflicted upon vulnerable individuals. Addressing the multifaceted causes of child marriage demands a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach encompassing socio-economic empowerment, legal reforms, and educational initiatives to safeguard the rights and well-being of girls globally. By dismantling the structural inequalities of child marriage and fostering a supportive environment conducive to gender equity and empowerment, societies can collectively strive towards eradicating this egregious violation of human rights and nurturing a more just and inclusive future for all.

## **Forced Marriage**

Forced marriage, characterized by the absence of full and free consent from one or more parties involved, represents a grave violation of human rights experienced by countless individuals worldwide. It shares many root causes with child marriage, reflecting deeply ingrained societal norms and systemic inequalities. The repercussions of forced marriages are far-reaching and often devastating,

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<sup>10</sup> <https://www.worldvision.org/>

<sup>11</sup> <https://blogs.worldbank.org/education/closing-gap-tackling-remaining-disparities-girls-education-and-womens-lab-or-market#:~:text=Girls%20enrollment%20in%20primary%20school,of%20school%20and%20learning%20poor.>



encompassing a range of physical, emotional, and socio-economic effects that perpetuate cycles of harm and deprivation.

One significant consequence of forced marriages is the profound decline in the physical and mental health of victims. Those subjected to coercive unions frequently endure heightened rates of sexual and domestic violence, leading to elevated levels of depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues. Moreover, the detrimental impact extends beyond the individual victim to affect the well-being of their families and communities, exacerbating cycles of trauma and suffering.<sup>12</sup>

Furthermore, forced marriages strip individuals of their autonomy, denying them the fundamental right to choose their partners and exert control over their futures. Victims are often deprived of educational opportunities and economic independence, compelled to forego their personal aspirations and instead conform to restrictive gender roles within the household. Forced out of school and coerced into early parenthood, many victims find themselves trapped in a cycle of dependency, unable to pursue educational or professional endeavors that would empower them economically and socially.

Compounding the challenges of combating forced marriages is mostly due to the number of older victims that it affects. Unlike child marriages, which may attract greater attention and intervention efforts, forced marriages involving adult victims often go unnoticed or unreported, rendering identification and intervention significantly more challenging.

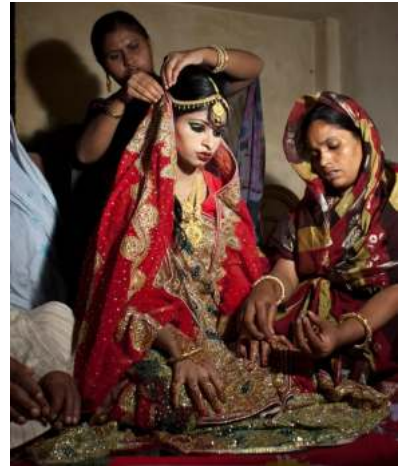
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<sup>12</sup><https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6734786/#:~:text=Common%20psychological%20effects%20of%20forced,relationships%20and%20difficulty%20trusting%20others.>



## Spotlighted Countries

**Bangladesh:** Bangladesh is home to one of the highest rates of CFM in the whole world. With 51% of girls being married off before they turn 18 compared to 4% of boys being married before they turn 18, the problem becomes apparent.<sup>13</sup> Throughout the years, the country has worked towards creating legal reforms that help this issue such as the Child Marriage Restraint Act (CMRA) of 2017, which sets the legal minimum age of marriage at 18 for females and 21 for males. This law aims to prevent and penalize child marriages, providing a



legal framework for the enforcement and prosecution of offenders. However, laws such as these hold no power without the enforcement of them. Similar to many other countries such as Sudan experiences most of its CFM in rural areas of the country.

**Peru:** Peru recorded over 5,000 young girls (between the ages of 11 and 17) in hostile child marriages between the years 2013 and 2022, averaging about 800 new marriages per year. 97% of these girls were forced into marriages with adult men.<sup>14</sup> Peru identified this atrocity as a major issue and reversed the



actions of Article 42 of Peru's Civil Code, prohibiting individuals from marrying under the age of 14 without parental consent. Additionally, the Aurora Programme was put in place in 2016 which emphasized the importance of raising awareness and promoting education to rural women.<sup>15</sup> Peru's acclimation to the modern views of the

nation was one of the major reasons that it could overcome the problem so efficiently and serve as a role model to other nations striving for reform.

<sup>13</sup><https://www.girlsnotbrides.org/learning-resources/child-marriage-atlas/atlas/bangladesh/#:~:text=51%25%20of%20girls%20in%20Bangladesh,to%2044%25%20in%20urban%20areas>.

<sup>14</sup><https://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/impact-case-study/informing-legislative-change-prohibit-child-marriage-peru#:~:text=Legislative%20change%20in%20Peru%20to,promulgation%20on%2025%20November%202023>.

<sup>15</sup><https://www.ohchr.org/en/news/2023/03/dialogue-peru-experts-human-rights-committee-command-advances-promoting-gender#:~:text=To%20reduce%20and%20eliminate%20violence,been%20enacted%20by%20the%20Government>.



**Chad:** In the past, Chad has seen over 61% of its female population married off before the age of 18.<sup>16</sup> Although Chad has sought to alter legislation that has allowed it to happen, misogyny and traditional views on marriage tend to step in the way of concrete change. In Chad, a woman's ability to escape from forced marriages completely depends on their access to helplines or other humanitarian organizations in the area.

## Spotlighted Activist Groups

**Girls Not Brides:** Girls Not Brides is a global partnership of over 1400 organizations dedicated to finding an end to child marriage around the world. By funding donations and holding conferences around the world to raise awareness of this issue, Girls Not Brides looks to promote legal change in every country that they visit.



**Unchained at Last:** Unchained at Last is a nonprofit based in the United States run by survivors of forced marriage. Unchained offers legal support and resources for women looking to escape unions that they were tricked or pressured into joining. Unchained specifically offers immigration resources to women who were taken over borders, helping them return to their country of origin.

<sup>16</sup> <https://webarchive.archive.unhcr.org/20230604201847/https://www.refworld.org/docid/57f79b154.html>



## Committee Goals

1. **Raising awareness and understanding:** Promote discussion and knowledge sharing, as well as highlight the issue's root causes.
2. **Bolstering legislation surrounding CFM:** Suggest and advertise stronger and more comprehensive legal frameworks to protect victims of CFM
3. **Supporting victims:** Creating programs to assist victims of CMF

## Questions to Consider

1. What is preventing the nation from creating the framework to eradicate Child /Forced Marriage?
2. How do we create effective solutions that do not infringe on the sovereignty of a nation?
3. What actions can we take to alleviate the economic burden that is causing this issue?

## Helpful Sources

1. [www.girlsnotbrides.org/](http://www.girlsnotbrides.org/)
2. [www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage](http://www.unicef.org/protection/child-marriage)
3. [www.unfpa.org/child-marriage](http://www.unfpa.org/child-marriage)
4. [www.ohchr.org/en/women/child-and-forced-marriage-including-humanitarian-settings](http://www.ohchr.org/en/women/child-and-forced-marriage-including-humanitarian-settings)
5. [eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1171?language\\_content\\_entity=en](http://eige.europa.eu/publications-resources/thesaurus/terms/1171?language_content_entity=en)



## Topic B: Food Insecurity in Developing Nations

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### Overview:

Food insecurity, which is defined as the condition where individuals or families in a community are unable to access healthy, nutritious foods that are sufficient for their dietary needs, remains a pressing issue that is preventing the world from achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2: Zero Hunger.<sup>17</sup> This



multifaceted issue affects nations all around the world but disproportionately affects developing nations. The complexity of this issue is primarily due to how the issues of food insecurity are interwoven into other societal issues including poverty, climate change, population growth, and financial insecurity.<sup>18</sup>

According to the United Nations, 2 billion people in the world do not have regular access to nutritious and safe food. As a result, 148 million children are subject to malnourishment, and experience stunted growth.<sup>19</sup> Each year, the situation worsens through climate change, conflicts, and the pandemic, despite technological advancements in the agricultural fields. Understanding the underlying factors is essential to fully understanding the moving components of food insecurity.

There is no fine line between the affected and the unaffected, so food insecurity must always be assessed on a scale. Four main ranges of food insecurity assess the gravity of each situation. Each term will be addressed in committee as they are paramount to combating and fully understanding the problem. They are:<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>17</sup><https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%E2%80%94the%20condition%20assessed,may%20result%20from%20food%20insecurity>

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/food-insecurity>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

<sup>20</sup><https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/food-nutrition-assistance/food-security-in-the-u-s/definitions-of-food-security/#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%E2%80%94the%20condition%20assessed,may%20result%20from%20food%20insecurity>



- ★ **High Food Security:** A scenario where there are no signs of food access issues or individuals being restrained from accessing food. Individuals in the community keep healthy diets and follow regular eating patterns.
- ★ **Marginal Food Security:** A scenario where there are 1 to 2 signs of food access issues that are caused by shortages of food in the house. However, individual diets and food intake amounts have not been affected.
- ★ **Low Food Security:** A scenario where there are some reports of food access issues and individuals' diets are influenced. Intake of food is slightly altered.
- ★ **Very Low Food Security:** A scenario where there are many signs of food access issues, individuals' daily diets, and eating patterns, are greatly affected, and individual food intake is greatly reduced.

## Contributing Factors:

Food insecurity is a deeply rooted issue that is highly prevalent globally. Several intertwined contributing factors continue to worsen the situation, highlighting the need for a collaborative effort and initiative to address all aspects of food insecurity that can withstand future challenges. One of the major causes of this stems from, poverty and unemployment. Individuals who are unable to support themselves financially hold limited purchasing power and access to nutrient-rich foods that their bodies need. As a result, many turn to cheaper, less nutritious foods as a way to make ends meet. Consequently, eating patterns consistently lacking vital nutrients contribute to rising health issues including malnutrition, obesity, diabetes, etc.

Furthermore, food inflation compounds the problem, pushing rich and organic foods out of reach for many individuals. This escalation of food prices further exacerbates poverty and deepens food insecurity, with marginalized communities disproportionately affected.<sup>21</sup> In the United States alone, the cost of food has been steadily rising, with the Consumer Price Index for food increasing by 0.9% in January 2022.<sup>22</sup>

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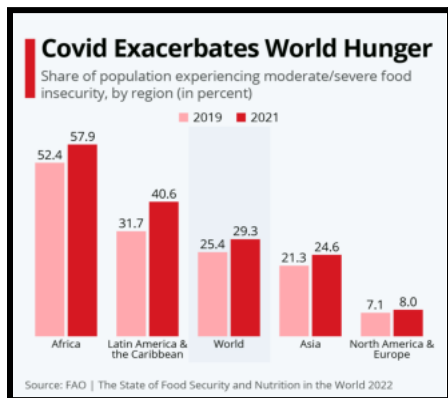
<sup>21</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings/>



Racism and Discrimination also play a significant role in preventing proper food intake for people as marginalized communities face systemic discrimination in terms of employment, resources, healthcare as well as other obstacles. With biases in these fields, many individuals struggle to support themselves financially, leading to impoverished communities. Systems of redlining and other forms of oppression continue to exist, contributing to food deserts, places where affordable and nutritious food options are scarce. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), racial and ethnic minority groups in the United States are more likely to live in food-insecure households compared to white households.<sup>23</sup> These systems must be fully dismantled before progress can be made.

Climate change disrupts weather patterns and causes more extreme weather to occur. With more extreme weather, some crops are unable to adapt to the new environment, leading to agricultural productivity significantly decreasing. As a result, food availability is disrupted leading to reduced access to foods. Reduced access to foods contributes to the inflation of organic foods, hence significantly limiting food options for low-income communities, and exacerbating the disparities in access to healthy food.<sup>24</sup>



In the context of the present, it's vital to talk about the long-term impacts that pandemics specifically Covid-19 had on accessibility to food and funding. The Covid-19 pandemic greatly disrupted economies globally. Due to lockdowns, and other restrictions between countries, food supply chains like distribution, production, and transportation processes were affected as a result, leading to agricultural productivity slowing

greatly. This disrupted chain led to more people suffering from hunger globally.<sup>25</sup> Additionally, with many individuals contracting Covid 19 and being hospitalized, many faced excessive financial strain in balancing hospital fees while struggling to afford adequate food for themselves and their families. The

<sup>23</sup>

<https://www.nlm.nih.gov/resources/understanding-health-disparities/food-accessibility-insecurity-and-health-outcomes.html#:~:text=Food%20insecurity%20disproportionately%20affects%20persons,to%207%25%20of%20White%20households.>

<sup>24</sup><https://climatechange.chicago.gov/climate-impacts/climate-impacts-agriculture-and-food-supply#:~:text=Climate%20change%20can%20disrupt%20food,result%20in%20reduced%20agricultural%20productivity.>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.statista.com/chart/27885/change-in-share-experiencing-food-insecurity-by-world-region/>

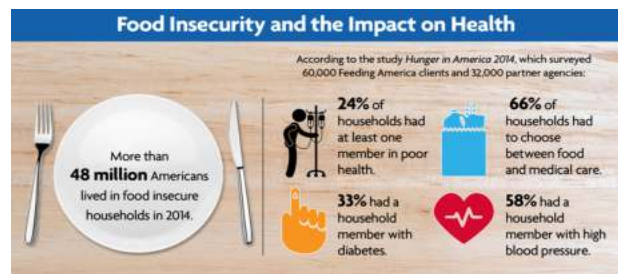




United Nations World Food Programme reported a 40% increase in the number of people experiencing acute food insecurity in 2020, largely due to the pandemic.<sup>26</sup> This further demonstrates the strong correlation between healthcare and food insecurity which are vital to ensuring the well-being of a society.

## Impacts of Food Insecurity:

Without proper and sufficient nutrients over time, it causes several unique impacts. Many people lack the necessary nutrients to have a healthy diet, leading to rising health problems. Such health issues include Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, and obesity.<sup>27</sup> With health issues, many individuals need hospital care urgently, which further burdens them with mounting hospital fees, while preventing them from working to support themselves and their families. As a result, many individuals find themselves choosing between receiving healthcare and risking the possibility of not being able to support themselves financially, or having food to eat despite it being unhealthy and insufficient for their body's needs. This is a choice no individual shall have to make.



Migration and displacement often become inevitable consequences of food insecurity, as individuals struggle to find food sources and support themselves financially, many migrate in search of regions with better access to livelihood and more economic opportunities. Typically, this takes the form of cross-border migration or rural-urban migration.<sup>28</sup> In this perilous journey, many migrants face extreme danger including violence from traffickers/criminals, legal barriers like restrictive immigration policies, and deportation, as well as family separation. Yet these range far beyond, and include health risks, exploitation, trafficking, environmental hazards, etc. Additionally, Educational Opportunities oftentimes remain confined to those with higher income levels due to the costly tuition

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/news/global-report-food-crises-number-people-facing-acute-food-insecurity-rose-258-million-58>

<sup>27</sup> <https://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/impact-of-hunger/hunger-and-nutrition>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.migrationdataportal.org/food-security/migration-and-food-security>



higher education calls for. Those facing food insecurity find themselves impoverished, forcing these opportunities to be simply out of reach and unattainable. Those with better educational opportunities are more likely to attain higher-paying jobs, and better employment opportunities. Through food insecurity, social disparities are heightened as the crisis becomes intergenerational.

## Past United Nations' Actions:

Members of the United Nations came together in 2000 to put forward a plan to address poverty, which led to the formation of the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). One of the goals behind the MDGs was to minimize half the ratio of people living in extreme poverty by 2015.

This goal was achieved in 2010, 5 years before the original deadline, leading to the percentage of malnourished people living in developing areas to be halved.<sup>29</sup>



Yet, despite this improvement, more work must be done, as focused on in the Sustainable Development Goals. Seeing the success of the Millennium Development Goals, The Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) were formed with similar purposes of addressing the issues threatening the globe. Yet, unlike the MDGs, SDGs are global, applying to all countries and not just developing nations. Comprised of 17 Goals, and 169 smaller targets, the vision is to accomplish each of them by 2030.<sup>30</sup>

Specifically under SDG 2, the goal is to establish a world free of hunger by 2030 and to combat the growing hunger rates that have only been exacerbated over the years. Specifically, goals of SDG 2 include ending malnutrition, doubling agricultural productivity, implementing durable agricultural planting methods, increasing investment in agricultural services, and adopting more measures to ensure markets are functioning properly.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>29</sup><https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>

<sup>30</sup>[https://www.who.int/europe/about-us/our-work/sustainable-development-goals#:~:text=The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20\(SDGs,no%20one%20is%20left%20behind.](https://www.who.int/europe/about-us/our-work/sustainable-development-goals#:~:text=The%20Sustainable%20Development%20Goals%20(SDGs,no%20one%20is%20left%20behind.)

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/hunger/>



Beyond the SDGs, the UN has several committees including the World Food Programme, World Bank, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and International Fund for Agricultural Development working towards eradicating the effects of food insecurity.<sup>32</sup>

The World Food Programme committee is dedicated to addressing hunger, one of the crucial issues behind food insecurity. Specifically, they work with countries in conflict including Yemen, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Syria, to help feed those living in conflict. They bring life-saving foods and nourishment to people displaced by conflict and even help those in remote areas.<sup>33</sup>



The World Food Programme handed out food in El Salvador, helping end hunger. The World Bank allocates funding for food to developing countries. They also have encouraged farmers to adopt climate-smart farming techniques to combat the growing issue of climate change.

Some techniques include planting more resilient plants and crops and restoring lost farmland. This way, more food is produced by faster, and more durable means.<sup>34</sup>

### **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):<sup>35</sup>**



The FAO holds 3 main goals, these are:

1. Eradication of Hunger
2. Food Insecurity and Malnutrition
3. Elimination of Poverty

Additionally, the FAO aids governments in implementing policies to maximize the reach of programs working against food insecurity. It also provides relief plans for countries facing conflicts. Such relief plans include distributing seeds, tools for farmers, and food assistance to starving families.

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.wfp.org/ending-hunger>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update>

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.fao.org/about/about-fao/en/>



## Committee Goals

1. **Raising awareness and understanding:** Promote discussion and knowledge sharing, as well as highlight the issue's root causes.
2. **Bolstering legislation surrounding CFM:** Suggest and advertise stronger and more comprehensive legal frameworks to create accessibility to food and resources needed to live
3. **Supporting victims:** Creating programs to assist and provide healthcare to those who can not support themselves

## Questions to Consider

1. How does the country ensure the participation and empowerment of affected communities in decision-making processes related to food security?
2. How should this committee address long-term sustainability and resilience in the face of climate change and other environmental challenges?
3. What measures can be put in place to reduce disparities and promote equity in food access in rural and urban areas?

## Helpful Resources

1. [health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity](https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity)
2. [www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update](https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/agriculture/brief/food-security-update)
3. [www.fao.org/hunger/en/](https://www.fao.org/hunger/en/)



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